WELLESLEY'S
PONDS
AND
PHOSPHORUS

For more information
Contact
Natural Resources Commission
Town Hall
781-431-1019 ext 294
http://www.ci.wellesley.ma.us/nrc/

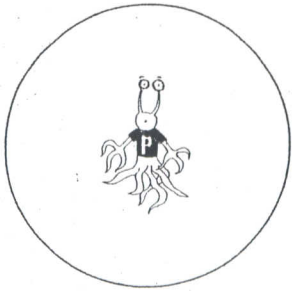
Wellesley Pond Management Facts

Morses Pond is carefully monitored by the Department of Public Works and the Recreation Department for its water quality. As a recreational area for swimming, boating, and fishing, the condition of Morses Pond is very important to the community. State regulations for swimming require water visibility to be at least four feet. Weeds and algae blooms, both symptoms of phosphorus overload, are treated by weed harvesting and chemicals.

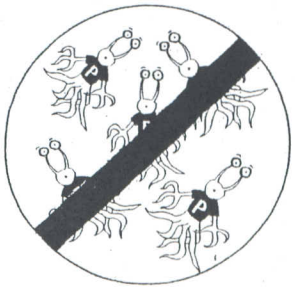
The Morses Pond Planning Study will determine feasibility and provide recommendations for environmentally sound pond and watershed management techniques for Morses Pond.

Longfellow Pond Excessive erosion and subsequent run-off problems from the parking area will be corrected in an attempt to lower phosphorus run-off and rehabilitate the shoreline.

PHOSPHORUS AND HEALTHY PONDS

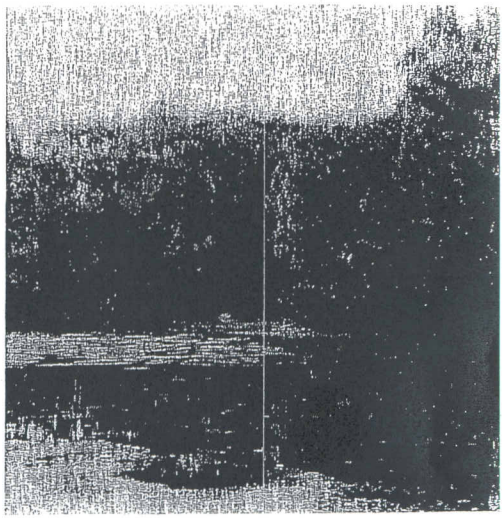


Phosphorus Occurring Naturally — OK



Phosphorus Overload — NOT OK

Wellesley's Ponds and Phosphorus



A Community Effort to Prote
Our Natural Resources

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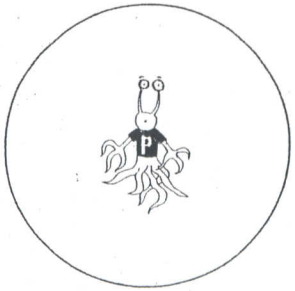

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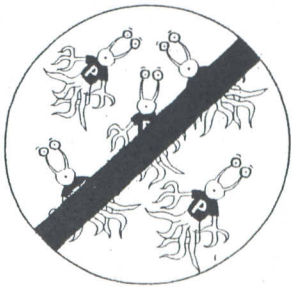

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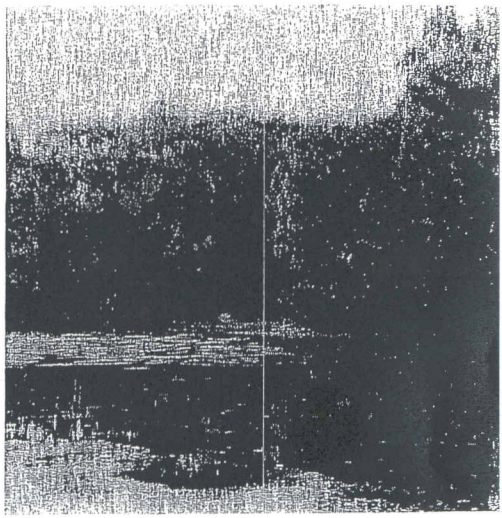

A Community Effort to Prote
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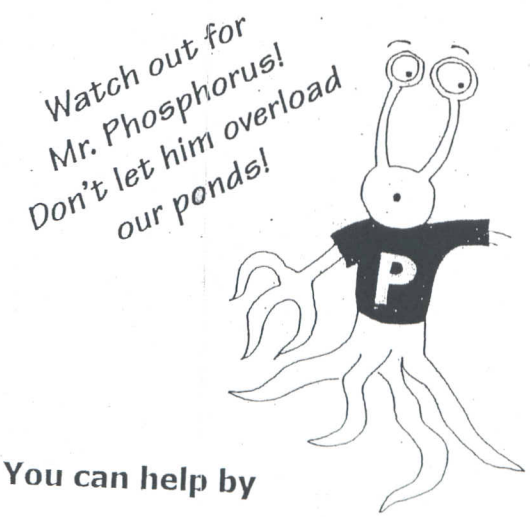


You can help by

Soil and Water Conservation Practices

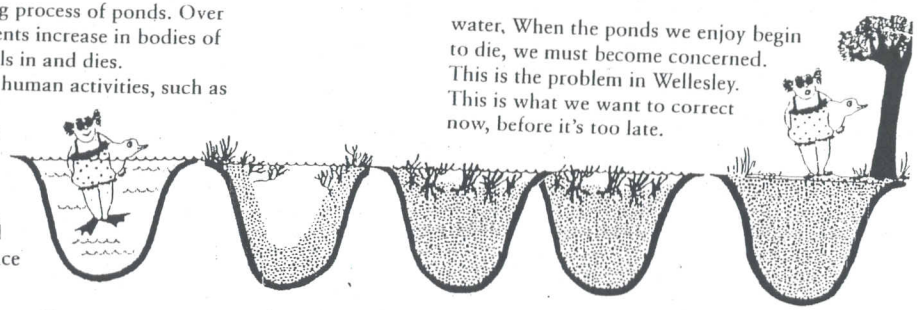
Slow and control surface run-off

- Waterways — line with grass
- Ponds and Streams — surround with natural buffer strips of vegetation (trees, shrubs, ground cover)
- Lawn care management
  - Use all organic fertilizer
  - Use fertilizers sparingly and in multiple applications
  - Read product information carefully

Reduce phosphorus now

Ponds are dying from phosphorus overload.

EUTROPHICATION is the aging process of ponds. Over a long period of time plant nutrients increase in bodies of water and eventually the pond fills in and dies. Eutrophication is accellerated by human activities, such as the use of chemical inorganic fertilizers or the use of detergents containing phosphates. Phosphorus, from organic and inorganic materials, soil particles, fertilizer, road dust, motor oil and car w[illegible]s is transported by surface water. When the ponds we enjoy begin to die, we must become concerned. This is the problem in Wellesley. This is what we want to correct now, before it's too late.



Phosphorus is a threat

PHOSPHORUS, a natural element found in rocks, soils, and organic materials, is essential for plant growth. When introduced by human activities, such as fertilization of lawns, plants and gardens, high concentrations of phosphorus overload ponds and contribute to their demise.

When phosphorus content increases, algae feed on it and deplete oxygen levels. The loss of oxygen in the bottom waters frees phosphorus previously trapped in the sediments—and the vicious cycle continues. Algae blooms turn the water green and cloudy. Unpleasant odors and fishkills result from phosphorus overload. Ponds become less attractive aesthetically and recreationally.

Milfoil, an example of an exotic weed now common to Wellesley and New England, grows rapidly in a high phosphorus environment. It choke out the more desirable native species of aquatic plants, depleting the pond's oxygen levels, resulting in fishkills.

Reducing phosphorus levels will reduce milfoil and other fast growing exotic weeds. Native aquatic plants, such as grasses and pond lilies will flourish and encourage a healthy fish population.

Help through these phosphorus management tips

Hazardous Wastes

- Do not dump motor oil in storm drains
- Store hazardous wastes in a secure container
- Do not dump paint thinners or chemical products on the ground or down storm drains
- Dispose of household hazardous waste in an environmentally responsible manner throughout the year or at the Household Hazardous Waste Day sponsored by your D.P.W.

Detergents

- Use non-phosphate laundry detergents
- All liquid laundry detergents are non-phosphate
- Use non-phosphate cleaners
- Use non-phosphate car wash cleaners
- Wash cars away from storm drains
- Divert run-off to a wooded area

Septic Systems

- Maintain your septic system in good working ord
- Improperly maintained systems are a significant source of phosphorus pollution in ground water.
- Investigate connecting to the Town's sewage syste